

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A headband means for applying a breathing mask to a user and having a flexible band body comprising upper and lower band portions for transmitting the mask holding forces required for applying the breathing mask, wherein at least portions of the band body are made of a foamed plastic material.
2. (Original) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the band body is formed by injecting a pore-forming plastic material in a molding space of a tool.
3. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the plastic material has a skin in the area of its outer surface.
4. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the band body is provided with a tensile proof insert.
5. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the band body is provided with a dimensionally stable insert.

6. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the band body is provided with closure means for coupling a band bracket portion in an adjustable manner.
7. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the closure means comprise a locking structure which is formed integrally with the headband means.
8. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the closure means comprise a slide means which can be brought in different closing positions on the headband means.
9. (Previously Presented) The headband means according to claim 1, characterized in that the slide means comprises a locking mechanism for locking the slide means on the locking structure.
10. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a headband means in which a plastic material intended for forming a tensile proof insert is injected in a molding tool space within the scope of a first plastic injection step, and within the scope of a subsequent plastic injection step a pore-forming plastic material is introduced in a molding tool in such a manner that it covers the tensile proof insert at least partially thereby forming a cushion portion.

11. (Withdrawn) An application device for a breathing mask comprising a headband means which extends in the application position around the area of the back of a user's head, wherein the headband means is provided with a supporting structure and the supporting structure is made of a material which can at least once be brought temporarily in a state in which at least portions of the headband arrangement can be adapted individually to the shape of the back of the user's head.
12. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure is made of a material which is plastically deformable after having been heated to a temperature of above 300°C.
13. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure is made of a thermoplastic material.
14. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure forms a stiffening layer.
15. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the course of the supporting structure is adapted to the curvature of the back of the head.
16. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises a cushion on its inner surface which faces the user in the application position.

17. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises openings.
18. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure is coupled with the headband means in a detachable manner.
19. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises arm portions which extend from a main surface portion in the direction of the headband portions.
20. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises a lower edge portion having two lower legs which extend in the application position towards the cheekbone of the user for guiding lower band portions of the headband arrangement.
21. (Withdrawn) The application device according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting structure comprises an upper edge portion having two upper legs which extend from a starting zone in the neck area in a direction extending across the ear area.